

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF
THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE
VALIANT SERVICE OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES
AND COALITION FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is considering a divisive and flawed resolution that proclaims that the world has been made safer with the removal of Saddam Hussein and his regime from power in Iraq. I have great difficulty accepting that proposition, and am deeply troubled that the House Republican leadership is embarking on this transparent, partisan exercise to score political points with their right wing.

Without question, the Saddam Hussein dictatorship brutalized the Iraqi people, and there is universal approval that he has been removed from power. Iraq is moving towards becoming more safe for the Iraqi people, but it is a great exaggeration to claim, as this resolution does, that the world is safer. As we examine the facts on the one-year commemoration of the war in Iraq, there is no direct evidence that Iraq represented a clear and present danger to the United States. President Bush initiated this war which has diverted attention and resources from what should be our primary international objective: discerning, disrupting and uprooting the source of terrorism.

Just as the Bush Administration distorted and manipulated intelligence concerning weapons of mass destruction to initiate this preemptive and unilateral war against Iraq, the House Republican leadership has added to the Administration's credibility problem by advancing this resolution. The Republican majority are deceiving themselves and the American people with this assertion that we are safer as a nation and we live in a safer world. We are not and do not.

We continue to live in a very dangerous world, and we are far from winning the war against terrorism. That is why I am very troubled that the President's proposed budget fails to seek the necessary funds for homeland security. We must provide more, not lower resources, for port security; our firefighters and first responders need additional funding, but the President's budget request falls far short of what is needed to make our hometowns safer.

I am also very disappointed with the manner in which this legislation was drafted and brought to the House Floor. If the Republican majority truly wanted a strong expression of support for our troops and the Iraqi people, they could have done so without inflammatory language in this resolution, and by including the Democrats in drafting a responsible statement of bipartisan national purpose and unity. This intentional failure to bring bipartisanship to bear on this critical national security policy leaves no other conclusion to draw than the Republican leadership places a higher priority on partisan gamesmanship than on statesmanship.

This "Do Nothing Congress" has failed to address the significant challenges at home and abroad, while spending the first three months of this year considering low-priority,

feel-good House resolutions. On the one-year anniversary of our military action against Iraq, the House Republicans have squandered an opportunity to demonstrate unblemished, patriotic support for our courageous troops and the Iraqi people. The American people and especially our troops deserve better from this Congress than the misguided resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE YOLO
HEALTH ALLIANCE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Yolo Health Alliance as it celebrates its 10th anniversary of service to the community. Created in 1994, the Alliance is an integrated public-private partnership including Sutter Davis Hospital, CommuniCare Health Centers, Yolo County Health Department and Sutter West Medical Group. The Alliance provides a seamless continuum of medical care to Yolo County's uninsured residents.

During the ten years of its existence, The Yolo Health Alliance has served to maintain a healthy community in Yolo County by ensuring that quality health care is available to all residents, regardless of their ability to pay for services. The Alliance has served to significantly reduce unnecessary visits to hospital emergency rooms and to increase patient satisfaction by providing comprehensive care to the underserved population of Yolo County.

Since its inception, The Yolo Health Alliance has provided health care services to over 24,000 individuals, delivering multi-lingual and culturally-appropriate care to residents representing many ethnic backgrounds. Services have grown to include both primary medical and dental care services through a network of seven community clinics located in Davis, Woodland, West Sacramento, Esparto and Knights Landing.

Mr. Speaker, The Yolo Health Alliance has been a cost-effective model that lowered the cost of care per member since its inception and saved local government millions of dollars in indigent health care expenses.

It is therefore appropriate that The Yolo Health Alliance be recognized on its 10th anniversary and commended for its success and good work in providing an exceptional quality "safety net" of health care services for those in Yolo County without any coverage and without the resources to pay for care.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was escorting the Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security in my Congressional District and missed votes on the following measures:

(1) H. Res. 551—thanking C-SPAN for its service to the House of Representatives on

the 25th anniversary of its first coverage of the proceedings of the House (No. 58). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

(2) H.R. 3733—Myron V. George Post Office (No. 59). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

(3) H. Res. 433—Honoring the life and legacy of Luis A. Ferré (No. 60). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DON SHERWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my congressional district, on March 17, I missed the vote on H. Res. 557, relating to the liberation of the Iraqi people and the valiant service of the United States Armed Forces and Coalition forces (rollcall vote 64). I support our Nation's efforts in Iraq, and I wholeheartedly support our troops. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 64.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LUIS A. FERRÉ

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House has taken up and passed House Resolution 433, a resolution that honors and remembers the contributions of a great American and a revered figure on the island of Puerto Rico.

On October 21, 2003, at the age of 99, Puerto Rico lost a hero in the passing of Luis Ferré. Perhaps the greatest political figure in the history of Puerto Rico, Luis Ferré spent his entire life working to make life better for the residents of Puerto Rico. Luis Ferré was a successful businessman and a human rights advocate for people on the small Caribbean island. He was elected to post as both Governor and Representative in Puerto Rico and also served as Chairman of the Puerto Rico Republican Party.

Ferré loved America. One of his greatest hopes was to see his native Puerto Rico become an American State and he worked throughout his life to advance the cause of statehood for Puerto Rico. In 1917, at the age of 13 years old, Ferré along with the people of Puerto Rico were granted United States citizenship. Ferré often recounted that while he could not recall the day Puerto Ricans were granted U.S. Citizenship, that he was grateful to be alive to enjoy the privileges of living in the world's greatest republic.

In 1951, Ferré was elected delegate to the Puerto Rican Constitutional Convention and he was able to directly contribute to the island becoming an official United States Commonwealth in 1952.

In 1968, Ferré was elected Governor and he continued to work toward Puerto Rican Statehood. He remained active in politics up to his death, most notably as the chairman of the Republican Party in Puerto Rico.